

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~February 23rd, 1959COM Document No. 3406COORDINATING COMMITTEERECORD OF DISCUSSION

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ONGERMAN PROPOSAL TO EXPORT COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO POLANDFebruary 12th, 1959

Present: Belgium(Luxembourg), Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM 2619, 2634, 3369.

1. The CHAIRMAN drew the attention of the Committee to the German proposal to export a variety of communications equipment to Poland in connection with the improvement and development of the civilian communications network. He enquired whether there were any preliminary questions.
2. The GERMAN Delegate pointed out that the whole project was still in the development stage. Such projects were very expensive to work out and the firms concerned did not wish to start detailed negotiations until they were sure that the export of the necessary equipment would be allowed. It was not the intention of the Polish Government to place one comprehensive order but for financial reasons to place a number of smaller consecutive orders. The Delegate estimated that the whole project would take ten years to complete.
3. The UNITED STATES Delegate asked if it had yet been decided whether the 12 megacycles or the 6 megacycles system would be used.
4. The GERMAN Delegate replied that this decision would not be taken until the exact cost calculations had been made and negotiations had reached a more advanced stage.
5. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate asked about the number of channels in the proposed carrier frequency systems. One of the new proposals spoke of 1,200 channels and the second spoke of 1,500 channels whereas the equipment mentioned in COCOM 2619 had only 12 channels. He thought that the difference was rather large and said that he would welcome the comments of the German Delegation on this point.
6. The FRENCH Delegate said that, like his United Kingdom colleague, he felt that 1,200 or 1,500 channels seemed to be a very large number but he would study the whole proposal as favourably as possible since the country of destination was Poland. He might have further technical questions to ask later.

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7. The GERMAN Delegate undertook to investigate the points raised by his United Kingdom colleague. While referring to the document submitted by the German Delegation he stated that the project fell into the Polish Government's plan for developing the country's communications system and stressed that the fundamental question for the Committee was whether or not it was in the interest of the West to support it. Once this fundamental question had been answered the technical questions could be dealt with as they arose.

8. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegate said that the List review in 1958 had shown the area of communications equipment to be a sensitive one.

9. The GERMAN Delegate said that he thought it might be possible to simplify the Committee's consideration of this case. He agreed that many of the technical questions were vague at the moment, therefore he thought it better to consider simply whether the proposed expansion of the Polish communications network, to which perhaps, as he had learnt recently, a request for relay stations for television equipment would be added, was in the interest of the Western world. If the Committee's reply was in the affirmative then the German Delegation could submit details of the actual requirements, together with all the necessary technical data, as they became known. His own authorities were satisfied that the equipment was to fulfil civilian requirements. The enquiries had been made by the Polish Post Administration and not by any other Government department. A further question which might be raised was the consideration as to whether or not important technical know-how would be exported. He did not think that this was the case because experience had shown how difficult it was to dismantle and copy electronic apparatus.

10. The COMMITTEE decided to hear the views of Governments on the general principle of the German proposal on February 26th.

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